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E1

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action of August 27, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks. Claims 1, 4-8 and 11-16 have been amended. Claims 1-16 are now pending after entry of this amendment. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and these remarks.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,373,187 ("Nagayama"). The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Amended claim 1 is directed to an OLED device having a substrate having electrodes defined thereon such that the electrodes are confined to an electrode region. Pillars along a first direction are on the substrate, wherein the pillars extend outside the electrode region of the substrate to prevent electrical shorting.

Nagayama describes a display panel with a first layer of electrodes 103 under electrically insulating partition walls 120a, which are between second electrodes 107 (FIG. 2, col. 6, lines 15-22). The second electrodes 107 and partition walls 120a extend the same distance on the substrate 102 (FIG. 8). Electrical shorting is prevented by depositing the upper metal layer 107 such that metal is not deposited on the side surfaces of the partition walls 105 (FIG. 10c, col. 2, lines 18-25), covering the exposed portions of the first electrodes 103 with an organic electroluminescent layer 106 (col. 6, lines 8-14), forming an electrically insulating layer 121 between the first electrodes 103 and second electrodes 107 (FIG. 4d, col. 7, lines 12-18) or forming partition walls 120a with a recess portion 120c between the partition walls (FIG. 6a, col. 7, lines 38-42).

Nagayama shows both the electrodes 107 and partition walls 120a extending to the edge of the substrate 102. Nagayama does not suggest or disclose forming pillars so that the pillars extend outside an electrode region of the substrate. Nagayama describes methods for preventing shorting between electrodes. However, Nagayama does not describe the insulating partition walls 120a as extending outside of a region in which the electrodes 107 are formed so that

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electric shorting is prevented. Rather, Nagayama prevents shorting by preventing metal deposition on the partition walls 105, covering the first electrodes 103 with an organic electroluminescent layer 106, forming electrically insulating layers 121 between the electrodes 103, 107 or forming partition walls 120a with a recess portion 120c between the partition walls. Thus, Nagayama does not suggest or disclose forming pillars so that the pillars extend outside an electrode region of the substrate to prevent electrical shorting. For at least these reasons, the applicant submits that Nagayama does not anticipate claim 1. Claim 7 depends directly from claim 1 and is not anticipated by Nagayama for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 2-6 and 8-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagayama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,111,356 (Roitman), over Nagayama in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,140,009 (Wolk) or Nagayama in view of Wolk and further in view of Roitman. The applicant respectfully disagrees.

Claims 2-6 depend from claim 1 and necessarily include the limitations of claim 1. Claims 8 and 16 include a limitation to a substrate having electrodes defined thereon such that the electrodes are confined to an electrode region and pillars along a first direction on the substrate, wherein the pillars extend outside an electrode region of the substrate. Claims 9-15 depend directly or indirectly from claim 8 and include the limitations of claim 8.

Nagayama, Roitman and Wolk all fail to suggest or disclose pillars that extend outside an electrode region of a substrate. For at least this reason, the applicant submits that no *prima facie* case of obviousness has been made with respect to claims 2-6, and 8-16. Claims 2-6 and 8-16 are allowable over the combination of Nagayama and Roitman and Wolk.

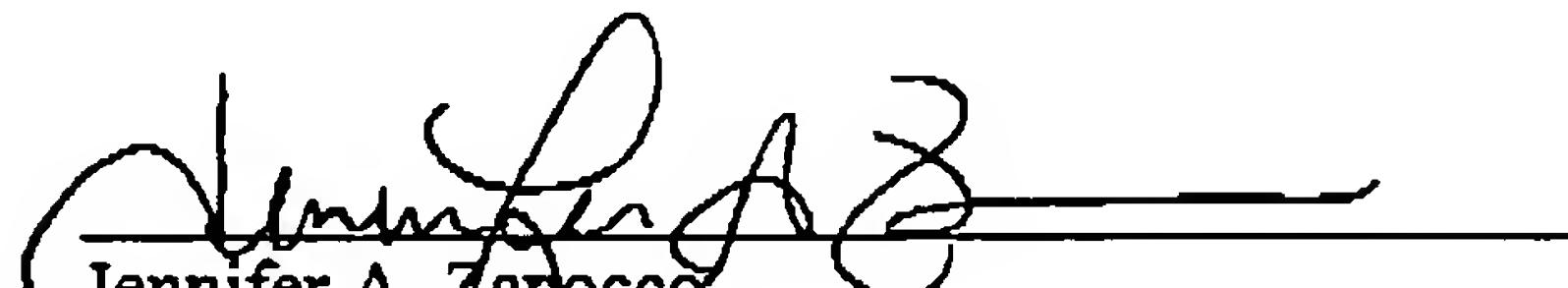
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No fee is believed to be due. If, however, there are any charges or credits, please apply them to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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